

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

**At page 3, last paragraph, last line, please change to read as follows:**

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The residual signal calculating section 16 generates a residual signal from the input signal by eliminating the vocal tract component determined by the LPC. This residual signal is inputted to the adaptive codebook searching section 17. The adaptive codebook searching section 17 vector-quantizes using an adaptive codebook and quantizes the pitch component of the residual signal. When searching for this adaptive codebook, the adaptive codebook searching section 17 obtains an LPC before quantization and an LPC after quantization from the LPC-LSP converting section 13 and LSP-LPC converting section 15, respectively, in order to select an optimal vector for minimizing the error and performs an error minimization operation. Then, the adaptive codebook searching section 17 transmits the vector-quantized pitch component as a transmitting signal. The remaining signal component obtained by eliminating the pitch component from the residual signal is inputted to the fixed codebook searching section 18. The fixed codebook searching section 18 vector-quantizes the remaining signal obtained by eliminating both tract and pitch components from the input signal and transmits the signal as an output signal. At this time, the fixed codebook searching section 18 performs an error minimization operation in order to search for an optimal vector in the fixed codebook like the adaptive codebook searching section 17. Therefore, the fixed codebook searching section 18 receives LPCs before and after quantization from the LPC-LSP converting section 13 and LSP-LPC converting section 15, respectively.

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**At page 7, last paragraph, starting on last line, please change to read as follows:**

According to the present invention, it is paid attention to that in voice encoding, a reproduction characteristic does not degrade so much in the case of a vowel even if there is only

A2 a small number of encoding bits in a fixed codebook and by lowering the encoding bit rate when the voice signal is a vowel, the average encoding bit rate can be lowered even when a voice part is sounded. Therefore, compared with the conventional case where the encoding bit rate is lowered only when a voiceless part is sounded, a bit rate needed for voice transmission can be further lowered while the quality of reproduced voice is maintained.

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**At page 30, paragraph 1, starting on line 3, please change to read as follows:**

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A3 At the head of a voice part, the rate determining section judges that the voice signal is voice. In a subsequent frame, vowel spectrum components continue. In this case, since the power related to a fixed codebook is low, there is no influence in voice quality even if the number of bits of the fixed codebook is reduced. Therefore, rate information is modified from the full rate to half the rate.

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**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please cancel the original Abstract and on a separate page, insert the following: